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Tough talking mayor sums up a unique year

OLYMPIC positives outweighed the negatives according to a tough-talking Christmas message from Weymouth and Portland Mayor Margaret Leicester.

She spoke of her "epic year" and was critical of "endless road works" in the run up to the Olympics followed by "the installation of traffic lights everywhere resulting in the loss of our prized floral roundabouts", adding that "remaining roundabouts have become havens for weeds and advertising signs".

by Harry Walton
hds Walton@yahoo.co.uk

Littlemoor artwork costing £335,000 also left her less than impressed and she said: "At the entrance to Weymouth we are now greeted by stone mushrooms on stalks that resemble something from a sci-fi film. We are told these are artistic!"

People became more disgruntled the closer the Games got, she said,

adding: "I sympathised with them in some areas especially when the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games moved in and took control. "They shut off roads, commandeered car parks and put up signs over a wide area warning of congestion which actually drove visitors away from Dorset."

"They even suggested Portland residents should travel to Monkey's Jump and then get a park and ride bus back to Weymouth, a journey of 20 miles with a charge of £10 for the privilege. No wonder people avoided Weymouth!"

Council staff did get LOCOG to realise the damage this was doing and signs were changed to encourage visitors, she said, "but the damage had been done, making a recovery

for all traders difficult to achieve in the short time left them".

Mrs Leicester said there were positives and the council's events team ensured the beach had plenty to offer visitors and locals throughout the Olympic and Paralympics period keeping everyone engaged with sporting opportunities, some giving an insight into the difficulties faced by disabled athletes.

POSITIVES

She said: "The use of the Nothe Gardens proved a great success so, all things considered, the negatives related to the Olympics were outweighed in the end by the positives created by the enthusiastic Ambassadors, local people and our hard working staff at the council enhanced by the Maritime Mix that introduced some unusual and interesting interpretations into our lives."

Mrs Leicester remembered the night the

Olympic Torch arrived in Weymouth and said: "The heavens opened soaking everyone, but the atmosphere on the beach was electrifying. I could not believe the extent of the crowds in that downpour. The torch parades were well attended throughout Dorset regardless of the time of day or the weather conditions with crowds turning out to spur them on."

"BBC coverage of this area for the Games was magnificent and I am sure we will benefit in the future from this window of opportunity. Sadly Channel 4's coverage of the Paralympic sailing events was a tragedy considering the amount of medals won by the GB Paralympic Team."

"I was privileged to present the floral posies to the Paralympic teams during the medal ceremony."

Mrs Leicester said Weymouth and Portland soldiered on through the wettest summer in history with Queen's Diamond Jubilee events, mass boat sail pasts, street parties and festivities bravely going ahead.

Local schools took part in an inter-schools torch relay so they could experience what carrying the Torch would be like. Mrs Leicester setting them off in pouring rain at the Nothe Fort.

She added: "The children all loved this experience as

age was no barrier to participating. The final torch presented to me was by a five-year-old and all the torches had been produced locally by a Portland engineering firm."

Youth has made a great impression on her during her period as Mayor and she said: "Throughout this year I have witnessed the superb talent of young people. The Lions Youth Brass Band portrayed outstanding young musicians with excellent solo performances by some very young people."

"WOW concerts have overwhelmed me not only by the talent of these local young people but also their

TURN to page 3



■ THE MAYOR OF WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND
Councillor Margaret Leicester

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Info at a glance ...

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Dorset County Hospital	(01305) 251150
Weymouth Community Hospital	01305 251150
Portland Community Hospital	(01305) 820341
DOCTORS	
Dorset Out of Hours GP Service	0845 600 10 13
DENTISTS	
Dorset Dental Helpline	(01202) 854443
CHEMISTS	
Weymouth Lloyds Pharmacy	(01305) 785484
Dorchester Victoria Park Pharmacy	(01305) 264012
Portland Boots Pharmacy	(01305) 820409
SPORT & RECREATION	
Weymouth College Sports Centre	(01305) 208713
Budmouth Community Sports Centre	(01305) 832508
Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre	(01305) 266772
St Osmund's Sports Centre	(01305) 756472
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Dorchester Library	(01305) 224440
Weymouth Library	(01305) 762410
Portland Tophill Library	(01305) 820171
Portland Underhill Library	(01305) 820149
LOCAL COUNCILS	
Dorset County Council	(01305) 221000
West Dorset District Council	(01308) 422248
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	(01305) 838000
Dorchester Town Council	(01305) 265844
Portland Town Council	(01305) 821638
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Weymouth Police Station	(01305) 252222
Portland Police Station	(01305) 222222
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**view
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newspapers**

Discussions continue over football club development

FOLLOWING two public consultation events held on Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th December regarding the potential relocation of Weymouth Football Club and subsequent residential development on the existing site, the deadline for feedback has now passed and responses are being collated.

Ahead of any planning application to the local authority Wessex Delivery will

be analysing all communications in relation to both schemes and incorporating suggestions where possible.

A total of 121 members of the public attended Monday's exhibition relating to the creation of a new community stadium at Lodmoor (with 42 comment sheets and emails received in response) and a significantly smaller attendance of

only 23 took the opportunity to view the plans for a residential development on the enabling Wessex site (with 11 comment sheets or emails received). Both events created the opportunity to answer questions and respond to concerns from local residents and the team were pleased with the level of positive support.

Discussions continue to be held with

the football club and stakeholders with a door remaining open for any interested parties.

Having taken on board all feedback, formal planning submissions are to be made to the local authority in forthcoming weeks.

Full and detailed information on both schemes is available to view on www.wessexdelivery.co.uk.

Groups interested in taking on the Pavilion are invited to step forward

COMMUNITY groups or other parties interested in running Weymouth Pavilion are being invited to approach the borough council with initial expressions of interest. The invitation follows a recent meeting of the council's management committee which considered 2013-2014 budget proposals, including the future of Weymouth Pavilion complex, the Guildhall and council offices, which are currently out for consultation.

The council wants to encourage the community or private sector to submit proposals to buy or lease the Pavilion complex.

Interested parties need to submit an outline business case including details of intended use of the building, evidence that repairs and maintenance liabilities would

by Harry Walton
hswalton@yahoo.co.uk

be met and staffing details. The proposal would also need to demonstrate medium term viability.

Weymouth and Portland finance and assets spokesman Councillor Peter Chapman said: "The council's all party budget working group would like to give any individuals or organisations with a serious interest in running the Pavilion an opportunity to declare their intentions.

"The time scales for the budget process is tight but we would welcome outline proposals so they can be assessed on a preliminary basis and guide our decision

making as part of the 2013-2014 budget process."

More information including guidance notes for applicants, financial information and a comprehensive condition report can be found at www.dorsetforyou.com/weymouthpavilionproposal.

The council will answer reasonable questions or requests for further information to support the development of realistic proposals.

There would be no council subsidy for the facility however the operator would be able to bid for some of the proposed £100,000 grants budget.

The council would retain its ability to sell the building, and this gathering of proposals is not a tendering exercise by the council.

Proposals will be considered by councillors as part of the 2013-2014 budget report going to management committee on February 5th and full council on February 21st.

Proposals should be submitted by 18 January to Nick Thornley, Leisure and Tourism Manager,

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, North Quay, Weymouth DT4 8TA.

Further requests for information should be directed to Nick Thornley by calling 01305 838000.

More information about the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council's budget proposals consultation can be found at www.dorsetforyou.com/weymouthand-portlandbudget.

Man injured as wallet stolen

DETECTIVES in Weymouth are appealing for witnesses and anyone with information to come forward following a robbery in the town.

The incident happened on the cycle path next to Weymouth Way opposite Pottery Lane at around 10pm on Friday December 14th.

The victim, a 49-year-old Weymouth man, was walking his dog when he was approached by an unknown offender who demanded money from him.

He sustained injuries to his arms and had his wallet stolen.

Detective Constable Gavin Roy, of Weymouth CID, said: "I would like to reassure people that this would appear to be a rare and isolated incident but I am keen to hear from anyone who may have seen anything or who may be able to assist us with our enquiries."

The offender is described as a white man, aged between 20 and 25, of slim to stocky build, and around five feet ten inches tall.

At the time of the incident he was wearing a dark coloured jacket.

Anyone with information should call Dorset Police in confidence on 101 quoting incident number 14:512. Alternatively, call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111 where mobile phone tariffs may apply.

■ FROM PAGE 1

sheer professionalism on the stage from the youngest aged eight to the older at 17 years of age. We appear to have a wealth of talent in this area.

"Young people as well as the elderly have featured greatly so far during my time as Mayor each having overcome obstacles in their lives."

On a concerned note, she said that all these events and efforts had taken place and been supported by council staff despite a large majority of them feeling threatened by the move to form a partnership with West Dorset council.

She added: "This has not panned out the way they expected and many long serving staff members have disappeared, some being moved to West Dorset offices with a 20-mile round trip to work which has disrupted the lives of those with elderly parents to look after or children to collect.

"Now we are to introduce a system of 'hot desking', the latest buzz word of the management team. Most large employers have abandoned this system as unworkable, but it is going ahead in Weymouth and Portland, making staff feel even more undervalued than they already are.

"As someone who spent many years working in an office for both private companies and Government departments, not having a specific work place is an alien concept to me.

"Walking around with a lap-top and my files looking for somewhere to start working makes no sense to me. It will waste time and no doubt stress staff to an unacceptable degree."

She ended by saying: "I hope everyone has a good Christmas and a good New Year. Hopefully things will start to improve soon."

A celebration of volunteering at sailing academy

TO CONCLUDE an unforgettable 2012, Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy hosted a volunteers evening intended as a celebration of the hard work from volunteers throughout the year and a chance for more of the local community to engage in the Academy's volunteer programmes.

WPNSA was the first Olympic and Paralympic venue since the 1972 Games in Munich to be accessible to all countries prior to the event as well as claiming the first venue open for 2012 Games. This combined with the extensive range of events held during the Olympic year required vast numbers of volunteers.

The volunteer recruitment event kicked off with a talk from Paralympic Gold Medallist, Helena Lucas who has also recently been appointed to the academy's board as a director of



■ **VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION: Peter Fry - Olympic Torchbearer, Helena Lucas - Paralympic Gold Medallist, John Tweed - WPNSA Chief Executive and Alan Baker - Assistant Harbour Master of Portland**

WPNSA.

Helena commented: "It was great to share my success with all the volunteers, they work so hard at any event behind the scenes and I also hope it was inspiring for those wanting to start

volunteering. These people really are the unsung heroes!"

Helena's talk was followed by the schedule of forthcoming events, presented by Chris Knight on how to get involved. The event hosted around

100 budding volunteers all keen to show their support and get involved.

John Tweed, WPNSA Chief Executive said: "The event was a huge success, it was great to see so many new faces

and we now have to work through the wealth of experience that came through the door to ensure they are utilised efficiently. 2013 will be our busiest year yet in the number of events, even bigger than 2012!"

The schedule of 2013 events has been published and can be found on the WPNSA website. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Georgina at georgina.lee@wpnsa.org.uk.

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A welcome for freeze on parking charges

A MOVE to freeze West Dorset council tax and parking charges for another year has been widely welcomed.

It will be the seventh year in a row which short-term parking charges have remained unchanged. Evening and Sunday parking in some areas will also remain free.

Councillors are also being asked not to increase the authority's share

of the council tax, currently £124.80 a year for a Band D property, but had little choice in the matter because of Government restrictions.

Dorchester Mayor, Andy Canning, said the weekend and evening free parking was to be welcomed, helping town centre businesses, including restaurants.

Dorchester Business Improve-

ment District spokesman Phil Gordon also praised the parking decision: "We are delighted the council has seen the benefits to the town of supporting businesses and encouraging more visitors."

The parking freeze in West Dorset District Council owned car parks will also apply in Bridport and Lyme Regis.



Awards for NHS heroes

SIX Dorset County Hospital staff were nominated by patients and colleagues for the NHS Heroes awards.

Hospital Chief Executive Jean O'Callaghan, who presented the six with their certificates, said: "The overall theme of NHS Heroes is one of celebration. NHS staff do amaz-

ing things every day - they care for people through the most difficult times, and that mission is the same whether they are working on the front line or behind the scenes.

"The NHS Heroes initiative was launched earlier this year as part of the NHS's 64th birthday celebrations and brings national attention

to the local healthcare heroes who mean so much to the people they serve."

The winners were: Kevin Turner and Billy Clarke, Sexual Health Service; Alex Sissons, Admissions; Penny Burt, Housekeeping; Kay Scott, Theatres and Laura Wilson, Physiotherapy.

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A new cycle and walkway - but first some traffic pain

WALKERS and cyclists using the Marsh Route in Weymouth will soon find their journeys easier once new crossing facilities are installed.

The shared use footpath and cycleway links Newstead Road with Chickerell Link Road and is popular with commuters, school children and families.

Dorset County Council will start work on Monday January 7th to install a toucan crossing on Cumberland Drive, upgrade the crossing point at Lanehouse Rocks Road junction, widen the pavement into the road by the Marquis of Granby for a cycleway, provide additional crossing facilities at Fiveways junction.

Officers warn that there will be several traffic management measures in place from Monday January 14th.

Cumberland Drive will be closed between its junction with Chickerell Road and access to the Land Registry for three weeks. The diversion route is the Chickerell Link Road.

There will also be three-way temporary traffic signals in use at Fiveways. These will be manually controlled 7.30am-9am and 2.30pm-6pm Monday to Friday.

Three-way temporary traffic signals will also operate at Lanehouse Rocks Road junction with Chickerell Road. These will be manually controlled 7.30am-9am and 2.30pm-6pm Monday to Friday.

Business will be open as usual and drivers wanting to access the Granby Industrial Estate will need to use Chickerell Link Road.

Following the closure of Cumberland Drive the junction will operate as a T-Junction until the works are complete, this will help traffic flows in the area.

The temporary signals at Fiveways and Lanehouse will be in place until the crossings are finished in early March.

Dorset Highways project manager Emma Baker said: "We know that the temporary signals will cause delays so we will be manually controlling these at peak times Monday to Friday to try and help the flow of traffic."

"Drivers from the Portland direction and through traffic may find it quicker to use Wyke Road and Rodwell Road."

"We have to turn the signals off because of the nature of the work we are doing to upgrade them and install ad-

ditional controlled crossing points. We are sorry for the inconvenience this will cause."

Councillor David Harris, Dorset County Council division member for Westham Division, said: "With the off-road cycleway finished and these new crossing points

installed, residents will have a great cycle route for work, school or leisure."

"We've been working to improve the cycle network in Weymouth and Portland and this is a much needed link for people living or working in the west of the borough."

The cycle route is being funded by Sustrans, through the Department for Transport, and by the Local Transport Plan.

For more information visit www.dorsetforyou.com/weymouthtransportschemes.

Seasonal serenading with festive spirit

A SERENADE of Christmas carols sung by More Voices Choir greeted Father Christmas when he arrived at the Little-moor Co-op Store in Weymouth.

The choir was helping members of Melcombe Regis Rotary Club raise money for local charities.

After entertaining shoppers with their singing, the choir joined the Rotarians in a tour of the local area where Father Christmas handed out presents donated by Weymouth Moose Lodge to local children.

Donations from shoppers and local residents amounted to £277 which will be used to help local charities.

Club spokesman Ian Brooke said: "One couple came up to me and put a lot of money in my tin saying that when they were in need Rotary had helped them and it was now their chance to pay something back."



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Kayakers rescued

PORTLAND Coastguard sent Weymouth's RNLI lifeboats to rescue a group of four kayakers who were stranded on an isolated beach near Bats Head.

On arrival several attempts were made by both the small inflatable carried on the all weather lifeboat and the inshore lifeboat to get to the beach but, due to a heavy swell that was pounding the beach, it was not possible to safely gain access.

Just as the volunteer crews were regrouping and thinking of another way around the problem the Portland Coastguard rescue helicopter flew overhead returning to its base from a training exercise.

The lifeboat quickly radioed up the helicopter and asked them if they could lift off the stranded kayakers to safety. This they did and then returned to the beach to collect the abandoned canoes.

They dropped down the winch man who tied the canoes together and the helicopter then pulled them through the surf to the inshore lifeboat waiting just outside the surf line which in turn took the canoes to the all weather lifeboat waiting in deeper water. They then returned them back to Weymouth lifeboat station to be safely reunited with their owners.

RNLI volunteer 2nd Coxswain Trevor Brooker who was in charge of the rescue said: "What should have been a simple job turned out to be quite complicated."

Butterflies on the up

THE number of butterflies and moths in Dorset is soaring, bucking the national trend – according to a conservation group.

Nationally, most butterfly species are in decline according to figures published by Dorset-based Butterfly Conservation.

But the same group has announced Dorset is seeing a sharp rise in their number thanks to a raft of conservation projects.

A spokesman for the organisation said: "Restoring and joining up habitat has seen the butterfly population increase by 278 per cent in the last decade.

"Nationally more than three quarters of butterfly species are declining."

Mayor's fund benefits the vulnerable at Christmas

HUNDREDS of pounds have gone to good causes during this festive period thanks to the Mayor's Christmas Fund.

Soul Food, the Salvation Army and the Weymouth and Portland Food Bank were each awarded a £100 cash boost.

All three organisations strive to help those less fortunate within the community.

The money for the fund is collected from donations from the generous residents of Weymouth and Portland and distributed to charities and groups across the

borough.

These charities and groups support many of the most vulnerable in society including the homeless, those suffering from addictions and families suffering real hardship.

Deputy Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, Councillor Ray Banham, who presented the cheques to the good causes, said the money will help bring some early festive cheer to those in most need.

He said: "Weymouth and Portland has such a strong commu-

nity spirit and it is a pleasure to present these cheques to such worthy organisations.

"All the money comes from many generous residents across the region and I would like to thank all those who have donated because without you we wouldn't be able to support these good causes."

Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, Councillor Margaret Leicester wished to express her apologies at not being able to attend the presentation and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The Weymouth & Portland Lions Club administers the fund.

Les Board, spokesperson for the club said he was very pleased to be involved.

He said: "It is with great pleasure the Lions Club is able to help administer the fund. It is great to know that the money presented will help to support those in greatest need particularly at this time of year."

The appeal raised a total of £2,650.84 last year.

Donations can still be made to the fund for this year and any

amount is greatly received. It can be sent to Mayor's Christmas Fund Appeal, Council Offices, North Quay, Weymouth, DT4 8TA or they can be dropped in at the reception desk where appeal envelopes are available.

All donations will be acknowledged, unless you ask to remain anonymous.

Any organisations, groups or individuals that could benefit from the fund support this year can contact the above address.

New bench presented to school

INSTEAD of sending hundreds of Christmas cards DJ Property decided to say Merry Christmas in a different way this year by presenting a bench to Chickerell Primary School.

The bench was handcrafted by the woodwork shop at HMP Verne on Portland.

Mickey Jones of DJ Property said: "2012 has been a challenging year for businesses, schools and community organisations and therefore I thought that it was important to look at things differently this year and give something back to the community rather than sending traditional Christmas cards.

"I work hard to ensure that I visit most of our businesses on a regular basis and therefore I can say Merry Christmas to most of them personally. It is important that local schools are supported by

the local business community as they are nurturing and educating the next generation, our future workforce."

The school's headteacher Jody Harris said: "Chickerell Primary School is delighted to receive this bench kindly donated by DJ Property. We are going to put it in our 'paddock' area which we are currently developing for outdoor learning.

"This area will particularly focus on encouraging children who may find accessing the planned curriculum difficult. It is all the more inspiring to know that the bench was made by other young people who may also have had a challenging start. This gives us a very positive means of showing children that practical skills are just as valued and needed in society as more academic skills."



■ DEPUTY headteacher Lorraine Llewellyn and Mickey Jones with the new bench and schoolchildren Rihanna Nutman and Luis Oldham

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Spirit of the season at the fort

SCROOGE brought a Christmas presence with a difference to seasonal celebrations at Weymouth's Nothe Fort.

The Christmas humbug, ably played by Weymouth and Portland Deputy Mayor Ray Banham, set the scene when visitors arrived to enjoy a host of attractions and stalls.

Children made reindeer and cards, doorhangers and dancing Santas, there was

fossil and face painting and a large number of craft stalls loaded with Christmas ideas.

Fort spokesman Jane Chandler said: "We thought this was the best Christmas attraction we have ever staged with everyone in Victorian costume.

"There was a real spirit of Christmas about the event because there were decorations all

over the Fort and everyone had a tremendous day.

"We even had the Fort's Artillery Volunteers making sure that Christmas went with a bang by firing their cannon.

"All proceeds from the event went to general funds for Fort maintenance and expanding our exhibits."



■ HO! HO! HO! Olivia Phillips meets Father Christmas Len Pitman and his reindeer, Dennis and dawn Barnes



■ SCROOGE Ray Banham



■ SANDY WEST joins youngsters enjoying the Coca Cola Christmas truck

Store's winter wonderland

SNOW drifted over excited shoppers when the Coca Cola Christmas truck came to Asda.

Weymouth was one of only 11 stores nationally chosen by Coca Cola for some festive fun with a snow machine and a chance for people to be photographed next to a sign to the North Pole.

Asda community life champion Sandy West said: "We did a lot of work with

Coca Cola during the summer Olympics and the reward for us was to be chosen as one of only 11 stores to be visited by the truck in the run up to Christmas.

"It was a community event to draw people together for a bit of festive fun and the crowds were amazing.

"They were queuing up to sample the attraction nearly an hour before snow spectacle opened."

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The Christian Column

AS I SEE IT ...

by Geoff Treleven

Looking both ways

Big Ben's first stroke of midnight on the last day of 2012 marks a time of celebration as we enter the new year of 2013. "Happy New Year" will be the in-phrases as the fireworks explode.

We do not usually ask whether our friends had a happy old year. But there will be some looking back as well as looking forward. The past is known and unchangeable, but the future is uncertain. We may wonder what it holds for each one of us.

There may be regrets about the past and possibly fears about the future. There is a Christian song with the words: "I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future".

An old poem includes words which King George VI quoted in his 1939 Christmas broadcast. This became famous and includes some good advice for us all.

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put
your hand into the hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and
safer than a known way!'*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you have a news story or a photo for the View from Weymouth or the View from Portland please call Harry Walton on 01305 787843 or email hdswalton@yahoo.co.uk



A CROWD of about 100 people braved the elements to take part in the annual Weymouth Lifeboat carol service.

They joined volunteer crew members in a warming glass of mulled wine and mince pies before singing carols in a short service conducted by the Reverend Richard Franklin.

The readings were given by head of fund raising Michael Gill and station treasurer Mary Cleverton while music was provided by the band of The Salvation Army. A collection was made on their behalf at the end of the service.

Carols around the borough



A FREE glass of mulled wine and a mince pie provided a warm welcome for nearly fifty people when the Friends of Greenhill Gardens held their annual carol service.

Music in the gardens was provided by Brass Tacks and service organiser Barbara Dubben said: "We were delighted to be able to hold the event this year because last year the weather was so bad we had to cancel."

"We sang a full range of traditional carols and it was the Friends' way to say thank you to our supporters and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."



CHILDREN from Radipole Primary School in Weymouth brought the spirit of Christmas to Mount Pleasant residential home when they sang carols to residents.

Organiser Rachael Bayliff said: "We approached several schools in the area and Radipole was among those who agreed to attend and sing carols."

"It was very kind of them to do so be-

cause music is very good for those suffering from Alzheimers.

"It can produce a reaction in those who have had communication issues for a long time because of their condition."

"We said thank-you for the children's efforts by providing them with drinks and mince pies."

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Weymouth Matters

A personal View by HARRY WALTON

Sailing (literally) into another new year

ONLY four days to go until the end of 2012 and it has certainly been a year for those who like sport or being drenched by torrential rain.

The Olympic Games, with sailing events held locally, provoked some of the strongest reactions to an issue in Weymouth and Portland's history.

Organisers hailed it as a triumph with the prospect of lasting legacy but many town businesses said their trading had collapsed like a badly made soufflé.

They said the misery of roadworks and other measures in the run up to the event was compounded by a disastrous opening where road signs and warnings for people to make plans for congestion saw visitor numbers measured as a trickle instead of the expected flood.

Hasty efforts to change signs and visitor attitudes did salvage a substantial part of the borough's slice of the Greatest Show on Earth, but repercussions, inquests, claim and counter claim are still simmering.

Through all this Ben Ainslie and our sailors cruised to glory and there was no

shortage of people keen to find a berth with them, desperate to escape from the worst summer anyone could remember.

April and June were the wettest since records began in 1880 while July was the second wettest as rivers burst their banks, homes and businesses were flooded and swans glided serenely across metre-deep floodwater covering the aptly named Swannery car park.

PINEAPPLES

The year began with pineapples and a campaign to get the iconic sculptures welcoming people to Weymouth and Portland restored to their rightful position on Ridgeway after relief road work saw them sidelined to a weed-strewn plot outside a park and ride site. Later in the year councillors backed reinstating them.

Serious community concerns were voiced about several huge house building schemes at Littlemoor while another campaign sent a defiant "hands off" signal to the council about The Marsh playing fields which supporters proved was protected from future development by a covenant.

Local elections saw 20-year-old Liberal Democrat Ryan Hope become the youngest ever Weymouth and Portland councillor while a new state of the art RSPB Wild Weymouth Discovery Centre next to Radipole Lake opened to visitors...only for the Lake to pay its own visit a few weeks later with floodwater half way up the walls.

Chickens came home to roost when Condor had to switch its operation to Poole after lack of maintenance saw part of the ferry terminal quay wall declared unstable. Alarming cracks began to appear with a 23ft deep scour hole undermining the harbour wall.

Condor's departure created a storm and vindicated Councillor Peter Farrell's long campaign to try and prevent large sections of harbour revenue being siphoned off for other council purposes instead of being saved for harbour projects.

An estimated £2 million scheme for repairs and ferry terminal development turned out to cost £4 million and the town is holding its breath in hope that Condor comes back in May-be.

Politicians' love of the limelight saw them use any excuse to come down in droves to Weymouth and Portland for the Olympics provided they weren't acting on one national magazine's observations which had the sailing competition taking place in Portsmouth!

BRAVING TORRENTIAL RAIN

The Juno Bellydancers undulated to stardom when they became heroes by braving torrential rain to kick-start a Weymouth Carnival which was threatening to drown in terrible weather while the Paralympic Games were warmly welcomed with the sailing events held in Portland Harbour.

More torrential rain and the worst September storm for 30 years guided us into the middle of autumn on the back of yet more flooding while October saw the start of a new tourist information venture near Hope Square at the heart of which is how the Black Death arrived in this country in the 14th Century through the port of Weymouth.

Elections were held for a Dorset Police Commissioner, but surveys showed a county electorate completely under-

whelmed by the whole thing with a turnout of less than 15 per cent.

November also brought the most dramatic council cut-back proposals in living memory with grim plans which could see the Pavilion demolished and the council offices and Guildhall sold off.

There was also a disgraceful rush to build arks as the heavens opened again.....and stayed open with widespread flooding across the county from a seemingly never ending series of rain clouds.

More development drama this month saw proposals unveiled to construct a new Weymouth Football Club stadium at Lodmoor and build up to 200 homes on the existing Bob Lucas Stadium, schemes which promise protracted argument which is likely to go to extra time.

Finally, we are all recovering from a surfeit of Christmas dinner and drinks with the demands of New Year toasts looming ever closer, so I'll wish you all a Merry Bicarb and a Happy New Paracetamol!

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Susan Gale Change your mind and change your life

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A springtime visit to the famous Dutch Bulbfields is a never forgotten experience! This superb value break includes a visit to the famous Keukenhof Gardens where acres of daffodils, crocuses, narcissi and hyacinths carpet the ground in a riot of colour, together with visits to the delightful cities of Amsterdam and Bruges.

Departs 22 April & 3 May 2013

4 days from **£219.00**

Chelsea Flower Show & Kew Gardens

Here's your chance to visit Chelsea - the world's most famous flower show - with its floral exhibits and fabulous show gardens. A break no garden lover will want to miss!

Departs 24 May 2013

2 days from **£149.00**

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

A great-value break to England's first big flower show of the year. Enjoy stunning displays of daffodils and tulips alongside bonsai and alpine, together with one of the largest floristry and flower-arranging marquees at any flower show.

Departs 26 April 2013

2 days from **£99.95**

London's Cable Car & the Cutty Sark

Experience London's Olympic cable car and "fly" across the River Thames enjoying spectacular views across London. Also includes a visit to the Cutty Sark.

Departs 9 June & 13 October 2013

2 days from **£115.00**

The 18th National Television Awards

This is TV's biggest night of the year and you could be there! Join stars from the nation's most popular TV shows and enjoy the glamour and excitement of this special awards evening.

Departs 23 January 2013

2 days from **£129.00**

"We just had to tell you what a wonderful time we all had on our Newmarket Tour"

Mr & Mrs K, via email

Paris Bank Holiday Spectacular

All the wonderful sights of the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and a host of others, together with the incomparable atmosphere of the world's favourite city will make this a Bank Holiday weekend to remember.

Departs May & August 2013

3 days from **£135.00**

Strictly Come Dancing Live! 2013

Join celebrities, dancers & judges from the TV series in Strictly Come Dancing Live! 2013 at the O2 Arena, London and judge for yourself who is the best dancer!! In addition to an unforgettable, glittering night, you'll enjoy the chance to visit Central London for some 'sales' shopping.

Departs 2 February 2013

2 days from **£165.00**

Wimbledon

This is your chance to soak up the unique atmosphere of Wimbledon over the final weekend, savouring those famous strawberries and cream - celebrity spotting, before taking your seat on No.1 Court, to watch the stars of tomorrow and yesteryear compete in the finals of the Junior and Veterans' events.

Departs 6 & 7 July 2013

2 days from **£135.00**

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The Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and West Dorset District Council offices will close from noon on Monday 24th December, and will reopen at 8.30am on Wednesday 2nd January. In case of emergency during this period call the borough council on **01305 838333** or the district council on **01305 251010**.

VIEW 2

The ultimate guide for Dorset

The Time Travelling Magicians

Morgan & West tour Dorset's village halls during January
See page 19



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View 2 Diary Dates

FRIDAY JANUARY 4TH

BRIDPORT: Deer Management in Dorset, an illustrated talk for the West Dorset group of the Dorset Wildlife Trust, by Jan Andrews, Professional Deer Manager/Consultant, Roebuck Deer Management. From 7.30pm at Bridport United Church Hall, East Street. £2 for members, £3 for non-members, for more details call 01308 423442 for more details.

TUESDAY JANUARY 8TH

BEAMINSTER: Beaminster and District Camera Club: Critique of Yeovil DVD. Agree subject for Kingswood Salver 2013. At Beaminster Museum from 7.30pm. Telephone Harry Worthington on 01308 862453 for more details.
LYME REGIS: Lyme Regis Art Society. A demonstration of painting a portrait in Oil paints by Mike Bragg at Woodmead Halls, 2 - 4 p.m. Non-members welcome for admission of £4. Call Sheila on 01297 442166 for more information.

FRIDAY JANUARY 11TH

LYME REGIS: Lyme Bay Photographic Club meeting. Competition: Hobbyist and watchthe WCPF judging DVD. At Woodmead Halls from 7.30pm. For more details call 01297 444733 or visit www.lymebayphotographicclub.org

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16TH

EYPE: West Dorset Decorative Fine Arts Society (a member of NADFAS) Illustrated talk by Mr Julian Halsby: 'The Butterfly on the Lagoon: Whistler in Venice'. At Highlands End Leisure



Louise Parker and Philip Clouts to perform at Jazz Café

ACCOMPANIED by Philip Clouts at the piano, vocalist Louise blends an effortless rhythmical style with a sweet warm tone and daring scatting to create a performance which truly stirs the soul. A big hit on the festival circuit and a regular on Radio 2, Louise is a powerful live performer and a skillful interpreter of swing, blues and gospel classics.

The Bridport Arts Centre Jazz Café featuring Louise Parker and Philip Clouts takes place on Friday, January 18th at 8pm.

Tickets, costing £8 each, are available online at www.bridport-arts.com or by calling 01308 424204

View 2 Diary Dates

Centre from 2.30pm. For membership details call 07972 472029.

THURSDAY JANUARY 17TH

FORDINGTON: South Dorset RSPB group meeting. Phil Farrer will give a talk entitled "Mongolia - Mountain, Steppe and Desert". At St Georges Hall, from 7.30pm. Admission is £2.50 for group members, or £3 for visitors. Admission price includes coffee.

FRIDAY JANUARY 18TH

BROADMAYNE: Market at St Martin's Community Hall from 2-3.30pm. Raffle, craft, plants, books, Jigsaws, Cards, Local Sausages, Lamb & eggs, Local watercress, Plants from local Nursery, cakes and preserves and a chance to sit and chat with a cup of tea or coffee. All proceeds for St Martin's Community Hall. For further information please contact Eleanor Piper 01305 853765.

SUNDAY JANUARY 20TH

BRIDPORT: Archaeologist Chris Tripp presents 'Grave Concerns - the archaeology of burial and ritual': 7-9pm at Quaker Meeting Hall. First of ten weekly sessions (every Sunday 7-9pm). Price is £10 per session per person. Refreshments and two site visits included. For more details call 0776 869 51 62, email tripp.chris60@gmail.com or visit <http://xcavate.blogspot.com>

TUESDAY JANUARY 22ND

BEAMINSTER: Beaminster and District Camera

Brain Gym

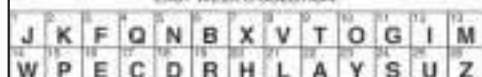
No.201

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. What the unpopular candidate will do? (5,2,4)
8. She features in all the Australian newspapers (3)
10. Share out a pint - poor arrangement! (9)
11. Deceits break the rules (6)
13. Everybody in the demonstration is superficial (7)
14. It's possibly nice to see (6)
16. A prop on the beach (6)
18. Guard gives a warning (4-3)
19. Trial way to review the evidence (3,2)
20. It keeps stocking up (9)
21. Make mistakes out of terror (3)
22. Their skills are similar (4-7)

Down

2. Catch a number up (3)
3. Comes closer in linear sketches (5)
4. Key member of the staff (6)
5. They're thrown from horses in rodeos (7)
6. Some space remaining for a liquor store (5,4)
7. These put on it may expect firm offers in writing (7,4)
8. A world opens out for this Central Asian animal (4-7)
12. Turned up in France (9)
15. Nearest point in a cupboard (7)
17. Good grounds for holding sports (6)
19. There's a scrap when a communist is told to be quiet (5)
21. Are made a feature of (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Face (11)
9. Away (3)
10. Height (9)
11. Spiteful (5)
13. Steady walker (7)
14. Harvested (3)
15. In arms (6)
18. Sterilised (7)
19. Charm (5)
20. Fleeting (9)
21. Behind (3)
22. Frangibility (11)

Down

2. Doll (3)
3. Very poor (5)
4. Not labia (6)
5. In fashion (1,2,4)
6. Innocent (8)
7. Aggravated (11)
8. Debauched (11)
12. Wayfarer (9)
15. Corridor (7)
17. Bad writing (8)
19. Lustre (5)
21. Idiot (3)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cere; 3 Scraggle; 8 Eagerly; 10 Forge; 11 Compensate; 12 Right; 15 Stay up; 17 Pull together; 20 Hyle; 21 Clasp; 22 Cheering; 23 Tomb. Down: 1 Overcast; 2 Begun; 4 Mayhem; 5 Gift of the gab; 6 Lurens; 7 Ploes; 8 Bessahoyee; 12 Spare rib; 14 trifle; 16 Toucan; 18 Hippo; 19 Chic; 20 RUCK - Across: 1 Set; 3 Maturity; 9 Affront; 10 Falat; 11 Disapproving; 13 Recent; 15 Badder; 17 Cream-braker; 20 Ernie; 21 Alien; 22 Interact; 23 Once. Down: 1 Standee; 2 Ulls; 4 Atroc; 5 Unfavourable; 6 Inkward; 7 Yell; 8 Compensation; 12 Estranged; 14 Gormet; 16 Scapae; 18 Konny; 19 Yell.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contain all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is L. Ladybird, Gown, Silkworm, all insects.



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Time Travelling Magicians

Morgan & West: Magicians, Time Travellers and all-round spiffing chaps!



AS PART of Artsreach's autumn programme, Victorian magicians Morgan & West stormed their way around the county, baffling audiences with their award-winning show. Now this magic duo who were crowned winners of ITV's 'Penn & Teller Fool Us' are back this spring bringing their magical extravaganza to a millennium near you. Stuffed to the brim with laughs, gasps and audience interaction, and brimming over with baffling magic and unparalleled precognitive powers, this pair of temporal tricksters burst into the 21st century with their trademark mixture of magic, wit and whimsy. Lauded by Paul Daniels and a huge hit at Edinburgh Festival 2011, Morgan & West's award-winning stage show 'Time Travelling Magicians' is suitable for all the family.

For a hugely entertaining night out, don't miss the chance to catch this pair of Victorian time travellers at a village hall near you this month. Blink and you'll miss it! Early booking is recommended

The duo will perform at the following village halls in January: Shipton St George, Wednesday, 16th (telephone 01308 897562 for more details and tickets); Evershot, Thursday 17th (01935 83471); Cerne Abbas, Saturday, 19th (01300 341332); and Martinstown on Sunday, 20th (01305 889963)

Prog legends Caravan head to Bridport on 40th anniversary tour

PROG rock legends 'Caravan' are including one night at The Electric Palace for their 'Girls Who Grow Plump In The Night' as part of their 40th anniversary tour.

Renowned for their cult status and a passionate following, music lovers will be travelling from far afield to Bridport on January 16th to watch the unsung heroes of the British Prog movement, Caravan, often quoted as being one of the most formidable acts to emerge from the 60s progressive scene. Formed in Canterbury in 1968, Caravan were at the heart of the 1970s Canterbury rock movement pro-

ducing their own brand of 'superior pop music, full of taste, craftsmanship and hard work' (NME) and packing venues worldwide.

Pye Hastings (guitar/ vocals), Dave Sinclair (keyboards), Richard Sinclair (bass/vocals) and Richard Coughlan (drums) formed Caravan in Canterbury in 1968. The four had previously played at various times with a local band, The Wilde Flowers, which also featured Kevin Ayers and future Soft Machine members Robert Wyatt and Hugh Hopper. After a memorable concert at the Isle of Wight Festival in June 2005, the band placed their

last concert in Germany on 19 June. Due to Richard Coughlan's ill health, plans for more live shows had to be shelved. However, the band resumed activity in 2010, with new material and gigs, adding new and younger fans to their longstanding and devoted following.

Witness the legend that is Caravan, plus special guest Garron Frith at the Electric Palace in Bridport on Wednesday, January 16th. Doors open 7.00pm / starts 8.00pm. Tickets £22.50 +bf from Bridport Tourist Information Centre on 01308 424901



Midnight is a Place

A shadowy but uplifting family adventure

THE ever-popular New Forest-based Forest Forge Theatre Company present their new winter touring production of Joan Aitken's children's novel, 'Midnight is a Place'.

Inside the gloomy Midnight Court, Lucas Bell and Anna-Marie Murgatroyd live under the stewardship of Sir Randolph, owner of Blastburn's dangerous car-pet factory. When a mysterious fire forces them onto the icy streets they face danger at every turn. Surviving in the snow can be a tricky business but Lucas and Anna-Marie's friendship helps them discover what is needed to build a happy home, and how a pie can change family history!

Following the success of The Wolves of Willoughby Chase in 2010, Forest Forge revisits this classic tale by one of Britain's best-loved children's authors. This riveting adaptation is both vibrant and imaginative and suitable for those aged 5 plus. Join us as we return to Blastburn with a shadowy but uplifting family adventure, accompanied by

original music and all the features of a Forest Forge family winter show.

Forest Forge bring Midnight is a Place to Winfrith Village Hall on Saturday, January 12th at 7.30pm (for more details and tickets call 01305 851749), and Litton Cheney Village Hall, on Friday, January 18th (01308 482748).



Budapest Café Orchestra return to the Marine Theatre

AFTER their hit performance at the Marine Theatre last year, The Budapest Café Orchestra return to Lyme Regis to take away your January blues.

The Budapest Café Orchestra delivers the richness and dynamism of Balkan music in all its untameable glory. Featuring a wide-ranging programme of impassioned Hungarian Czardas, tender Russian folk melodies, rollicking dances from Romania and Moldavia, bittersweet Jewish laments, as well as their own electrifying compositions, the music evokes vivid images of Tzigane fiddle maestros, Budapest café life and gypsy campfires - good enough to make you want to book a holiday along the Danube!

The Budapest Café Orchestra are at The Marine Theatre, Lyme

Regis on Thursday, January 24th. Doors open 7.45pm with the band onstage at 8.30pm. Tickets cost £13 or £11 concessions, and are available online at www.marinetheatre.com or by calling the box office on 01297 332138.



Text your event information for our Diary Dates column to LME (space) DIARY1 (space) then your listing as you would like it to appear to

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CINEMA LISTINGS

Friday, December 28th
- Thursday, January 3rd
ALL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LYME REGIS REGENT
Broad Street, Lyme Regis
Tel: 0871 230 3200
www.scottcinemas.co.uk
Contact the cinema directly, or
check online for up-to-date listings

BRIDPORT ARTS CENTRE
South Street, Bridport
Tel: 01308 424204
www.bridport-arts.com
Great Expectations
Thu: 13.30, 19.30

DORCHESTER PLAZA
32 Trinity St, Dorchester
Tel: 01305 262488
www.plazadorchester.com
Jack Reacher¹⁵
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 17.20, 20.20
Mon: 15.00 only
Life Of Pi^{PG}
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 12.00, 20.05
Mon: 12.00, 17.30
Parental Guidance^U
Fri-Sun: 15.00, 15.35, 17.30, 19.00
Mon: 15.00, 15.35, 18.00
Tue-Thu: 15.00, 15.35, 17.30
Pitch Perfect^{12A}
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 20.30
Quartet^{12A}
Tue-Thu: 18.00
Rise Of The Guardians^{PG}
Daily: 12.20, 14.50
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey^{12A}
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 11.30, 15.20, 19.10
Mon: 11.30, 15.20
Tinkerbell and the Secret of the Wings^U Daily: 13.15

WEYMOUTH CINEWORLD
New Bond St, Weymouth
Tel: 0871 200 2000
www.cineworld.co.uk
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey^{12A}
Fri-Sun: 11.40, 12.20, 13.10, 14.40, 15.20, 16.50, 19.00, 19.40, 20.30
Mon: 10.15, 11.00, 14.00, 14.30, 15.00, 17.45, 18.15, 19.00
Tue-Thu: 12.20, 13.10, 16.00, 16.50, 19.40, 20.30
Rise Of The Guardians^{PG}
Fri, Sat: 10.50, 13.20, 15.50
Skyfall^{12A}
Fri-Sun: 20.00
Nativity 2: Danger In The Manger^U
Fri-Sun: 11.20, Mon: 10.30, Tue-Thu: 12.30
Life Of Pi^{PG}
Fri-Sun: 11.50, 13.50, 14.50, 16.50, 17.50, 19.50, 20.50
Mon: 11.50, 13.00, 14.50, 16.00, 17.50, 19.00
Tue-Thu: 11.50, 14.50, 17.50, 19.50, 20.50
Jack Reacher¹⁵
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 11.15, 14.15, 17.15, 18.15, 20.15, 21.15
Mon: 10.00, 13.00, 16.00, 18.15, 19.00
Quartet^{12A}
Tue: 13.50, 16.20, 18.50
Wed & Thu: 11.20, 13.50, 16.20, 18.50
Pitch Perfect^U
Daily: 11.20, 14.00, 16.40, 19.20
Tinkerbell and the Secret of the Wings^U Fri, Sun-Thu: 11.00am
Playing for Keeps^{12A}
Tue-Thu: 21.20
Parental Guidance^U
Fri-Sun, Tue-Thu: 12.00, 14.40, 17.20
Mon: 12.45, 15.15, 17.45
The Impossible^{12A}
Tue-Thu: 15.15, 18.00, 20.45
Brave^U Sat: 10.20am
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted^{PG} Fri-Mon, Wed, Thu: 10.00am, Tue: 11.00am
Home Alone^{PG} Sat: 10.10am

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QUARTET^{12A}

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Directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly and Sheridan Smith.



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PLAYING FOR KEEPS^{12A}

A FORMER sports star who's fallen on hard times starts coaching his son's soccer team as a way to get his life together. His attempts to become an adult are met with challenges from the attractive soccer moms who pursue him at every turn.

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5.15 - 6.15pm PILATES
6.15 - 7.15pm SILKS AERIAL COURSE ADULTS (16+)
6.30 - 7.30pm CIRCUITS
7.30 - 8.30pm GROUP STUDIO CYCLING - Ladies Only
TUESDAY
6.30 - 7.30pm ZUMBA
WEDNESDAY
4.00 - 6.00pm GYMNASTICS
4.00 - 5.00pm 4-10 YR OLDS FOOTBALL ACADEMY
5.00 - 6.00pm 11-16 YR OLDS FOOTBALL ACADEMY
6.00 - 6.45pm GROUP STUDIO CYCLING
7.00 - 8.00pm BACK 2 NETBALL CLUB
8.00 - 9.30pm VOLLEYBALL
THURSDAY
6.30 - 7.30pm KETTLECISE
FRIDAY
5.00 - 6.00pm SILKS AERIAL COURSE 11-16 YR OLDS
6.15 - 7.15pm SILKS AERIAL COURSE ADULTS (16+)

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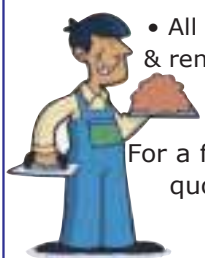
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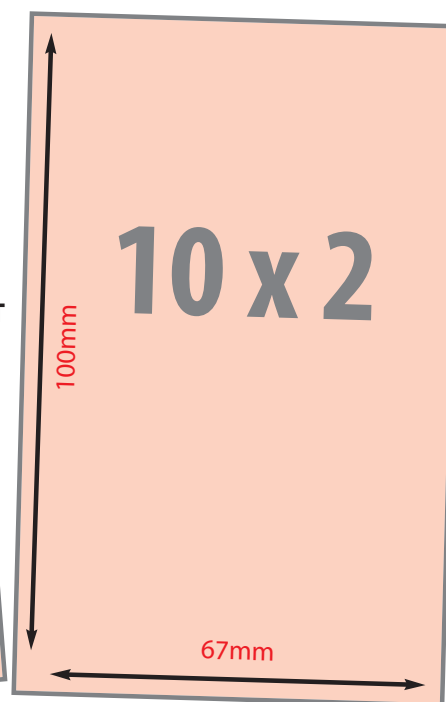
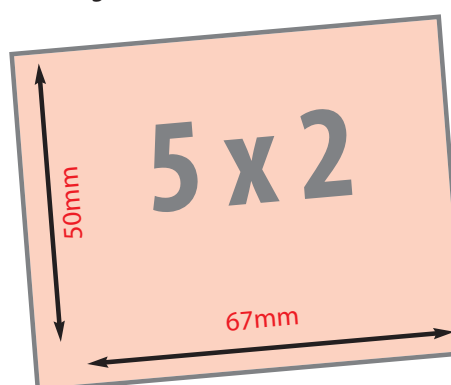
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The UK pick-up market has grown by more than 25 per cent since 2009, with eight models currently competing in the segment. The Ford Ranger has emerged victorious from a group of seven vehicles reviewed – the most comprehensive pick-up test 4x4 Magazine has ever conducted.

Nigel Fryatt, 4x4 Magazine Editor, said: "Ford's new Ranger has significantly raised the bar in the pick-up market. Our extensive test showed the variety of products that are now on the UK market, and the Ranger topped them all with better overall ability, superb ride quality and an interior that makes it hard to believe this is a commercial vehicle. Indeed, no other pick-up came close in terms of interior comfort and specification."

Ford UK managing director, Mark Ovens, said: "The awards keep on coming for the Ford Ranger as it continues to assert its presence in the market. Our customers have really welcomed the introduction of the all-new model, boosting sales by nearly 20 per cent compared with last year."



▲ The Ford Ranger has won 4x4 Magazine Pick-Up of the Year 2013

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Cooper Tire urges drivers to fit winter tyres as temperature drops

FOLLOWING the first winter cold snap to hit the UK, Cooper Tire is urging drivers to replace their summer rubber with tyres made specifically for the cold temperatures and winter road conditions.

During November and December 2011 the UK's average temperature fell from 8.7°C to 4.8°C and Department for Transport figures showed a significant rise in accidents involving slippery roads in the winter months. A similar trend was recorded in 2010.

As soon as temperatures drop below 7°C, specialist winter rubber performs better than regular summer tyres. Winter tyres provide better grip and higher levels of traction when needed.

Estimates say that less than 5% of motorists fit winter tyres to their cars each year which could mean more than 27 million cars on UK roads are now using tyres not suited to the conditions they face each day.

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miles of which will never see a gritting lorry through the course of the winter.

"Many of us have seen the performance of winter tyres in action on the continent," said Pete McNally, General Manager of Cooper Tires' European Technical Centre. "Anyone who's been on a ski holiday will have seen Europeans driving around on snow with levels of grip that most UK motorists only dream of in the winter."

"British drivers need to realise that winter tyres not only offer a safer option when it snows, they are also specifically designed to operate at temperatures below 7°C, making them ideal from December right through to April when the temperatures usually rise again."



Ampera: Gift it, try it, keep it...or return it

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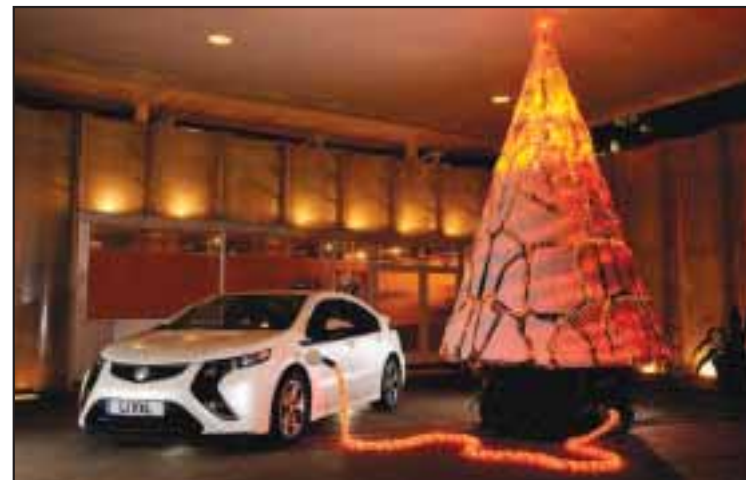
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And now, thanks to the 30 day 'Love it or Return it' scheme, the Ampera comes complete with **Zero purchase anxiety.**

"This initiative shows the real world confidence

we have in Ampera," said Duncan Aldred, Vauxhall's Chairman and Managing Director. "We appreciate that investing in new technology is a big decision which can require a leap of faith for some buyers. It's therefore vital that we demonstrate our belief in Ampera and provide customer reassurance during the buying process. 'Love it or Return it' aims to achieve just that."



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Point-to-pointers ready for off

Continued from back page:

Lucia Borradaile will campaign Newton Abbot hunter chase winner Turko, who was fifth in the Cheltenham Fox-hunter but refused to race at the PPORC, and Classic Swain from her Stoke Abbot near Beaminster home.

The pair will race in ladies' or mixed opens before hunter chasing.

Robert and Nicky Atkinson have three horses at **Cattis-tock** near Dorchester. Russian Rain and Spring Lord are joined by Regal Spider, a six-year-old by Pasternak. Martin and Catherine Atkinson will share the rides.

Graham Foot has three unraced horses at **Askerswell** near Bridport. Stable star Johnny's Way misses 2013, so Graham will be represented by half-brothers Askers Judge and Askers Lad plus John and Greer Norman's Ban-marie.

Kington Magna (near Gillingham) permit holder Cathy Hamilton has three pointers for the new season.

Sir Bathwick is scheduled to reappear, while Gunship makes a welcome return to pointing after a successful three-season stint under Rules.

The yard is completed by the ex-Donald McCain-trained

seven-year-old Realignment, who finished in the frame seven times under Rules. Cathy's daughter Emma will partner the bulk of the runners.

Rilly Goschen returns to the training ranks at **Nyland** near Gillingham to race Extra Bold, who has won three handicap chases under Rules, and looks forward to again partnering Comanche Chief and Tenawa – winner of the 2012 National Novice Mare Award – for Belchalwell owner-trainer Jane Wilkinson.

Motcombe (near Shaftesbury) trainer Pat Bryant launched his Larks Point-to-Point Racing Club when Bobs Present contested Black Forest Lodge's 2m-4f maiden in December.

Ballinah, who was sixth in an Irish maiden, and five-time chase winner River Indus will also represent the Club, while Mrs Fir, who has been placed in three of her four points, is another to look out for.

Bradford Peverell (near Dorchester) handler Peter Shaw has five possibles for the new season. Peter wel-comes back Pimbury, Classic Clover and Buckle End.

Newcomers are Busy Isit, who won for Peter's wife, Fiona, under Rules, and My Space, who has run in three

bumpers.

Mary Tory has six pointers at **Thorncombe** (near Bland-ford).

She has retained Miss Midnight, four-race winner Crank Hill, who will again be partnered by Tim Hampton, and Battle Bridge, the winner of three races last season for

Newcomers include Cantabilly, the winner of six races under Rules for the Ron Hodges stable.

Harriet Besent is preparing her June 2012 Ascot pur-chase Deimne at the family at **Melcombe Bingham** near Dorchester and plans to make her riding debut aboard the mare in Larkhill's Royal Artillery hunt race in January.

Monica and Norman Tory will race stable stalwart Gun-ner Be Quick and Carriglea Wood, a winner over fences for Richard Woollacott at Uttoxeter in the summer.

Okeford Fitzpaine trainer Sally Alner will race a small string of pointers headed by dual 2011/12 winner Master Medic, and Wincanton hunter chase winner Jayne's Cru-sader, who won a second consecutive Dick and Sue Woodhouse Memorial Hunter Chase in March 2012.

Michael Miller has Vintage Class, who was in the frame in three of his five outings last season, in his **Hazelbury**

Bryan yard again this season.

Newcomers include an unnamed four-year-old mare out of the prolific Miss O'Grady and Token Bay, who is owned by Michael's brother, Andrew.

Richenda Ford has five pointers for her parents, Kevin and Marina Snook, at her stables at **Okeford Fitzpaine** near Blandford.

Trebudannon winner Roisini Bay returns after missing 2012, along with Steel Gold and Abayaan, who have both previously been campaigned under Rules.

A three-year-old mare out of the Snooks' prolific Coolers Quest, and 2009 Trebudannon winner Somerby complete the yard.

Dorset/Devon Border

GORDON Herrod will race three horses, including Feel The Beat, from his **Axminster** base.

Dalmatian and Mullins Mill, a good third at Treborough Hill and Upcott Cross last season, complete the team.

♦ For a free colour leaflet detailing all the meetings in the Wessex area, send an SAE to Gill Armstrong, Pantiles, Penselwood, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8NF.

CASTLE COVE SAILING

A message from the new commodore

RICHARD Bowers who has just been elected Castle Cove Sailing Club Commodore has sent the follow-ing message to the club's members.

"I need to begin this with a huge thank you to Richard White and Ken Barfoot for their hard work over the last two years; two years which have seen some big changes at the club.

"Richard and Ken took over when there was a huge amount of uncertainty over what impact the

Olympic sailing would have on the club, and whether or not to build the new balcony. They steered Castle Cove through all of this with aplomb and the sailing club thrived to become a focal point for Paralympian's families and supporters.

"It's a huge honour, thrill and privilege to be asked to be commodore, so thank you all for putting your faith in me.

"Moving straight to commodore without being vice-commodore is a challenge and one that I am going to enjoy. Fortunately for me, Mike Conroy has agreed to be vice commodore and with him comes a wealth of knowledge and experience, whilst Richard White has promised not to turn his phone off, or bar my number; at least, not for the first couple of months!

"I started sailing at Castle Cove at the age of 11 and in the intervening 39 years between the young novice sailing in cut-off jeans and a woolly jumper and today (I have a wetsuit now), I have been lucky enough to sail with some amazing sailors in some fantastic venues around the world.

None of them match Castle Cove for the quality of sailing or the camaraderie afloat and ashore. I have also been fortunate enough to win a few events too.

"The reason for mentioning those is not to blow my own trumpet but to show that Castle Cove Sailing Club gave me the perfect grounding for my sailing career and all my sailing experiences since have built on that foundation.

"It's not only me; over the years Castle Cove has produced National champions, European champi-ons and at least one World champion.

"I am looking forward to working with Mike, to en-sure that Castle Cove continues to inspire our young, and not so young sailors to achieve their dreams, be they Olympic aspirations, hope of national success, winning the Australian summer series or ambitious cruises.

"As we approach our 90th year we have the oppor-tunity to celebrate Castle Cove in all its glory; brilliant facilities, great sailing waters and fantastic friends to share them with.

"Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual General meeting and voted for Mike and myself. I am really excited to be your commodore and taking an active part in the beginning of the next 90 year chapter."

Dorchester & District Snooker League

RESULTS: Colliton XQ2012 0 Trinity Gooduns 6, West Dorset Club A 6 Purbeck Potters 3, Colliton Hopefuls 5 Colliton Club B 2, Trinity M 6 WDC Whip-ping Boys 0, Trinity Express 4 West Dorset Club C 4.
30+ breaks: K.Emery 44, S.Rhone 36, G.Bartlett 33, M.Woodroffe 32.

Top Break of the Season: Graham Bartlett (West Dorset Club A) 49.

Table (after week 12)	Pld	W	D	L	N/R	Pts
West Dorset Club C.....	11	7	1	3	0	52
West Dorset Club A.....	10	7	0	3	0	48
Trinity M.....	9	6	1	2	0	40
Purbeck Potters.....	10	5	0	5	0	40
Trinity Gooduns.....	10	4	1	5	0	38
Trinity Express.....	11	5	1	5	0	37
Colliton Hopefuls.....	11	4	0	7	0	37
Colliton Club B.....	10	6	0	4	0	36
Colliton XQ2012.....	11	5	0	6	0	34
Colliton Cons.....	8	4	0	4	0	30
WDC Whipping Boys.....	11	1	0	10	0	20

Team Handicap Knockout Cup - 2nd round
WDC Whipping Boys 2 Colliton Cons 4, Colliton Hopefuls 2 Trinity M 4, Colliton Club B 3 West Dorset Club C 4, Trinity Gooduns 2 Trinity Express 4.
Semi-finals: Colliton Cons v West Dorset Club C (at Trinity Club - February 21st) Trinity Express v Trinity M (at Trinity Club, February 28th).

Chloe wins national title



■ CHLOE Le Page became Weymouth Amateur Boxing Club's first female national champion when she won the national ABAE Championship at Cannock recently. The 14-year-old won the Class 2 54-56kg title by stopping Bella Murphy of Sturminster Newton in the first round. Chloe is thought to be the first Weymouth boxer to attain national status since the club's current President David Nelmes. Our photo above shows Chloe with her medal and certificate together with proud dad Paddy Le Page (centre) and coach Roland Siddons.

Magpies woes continue

Wimborne Town 3 Dorchester Town 2

DORCHESTER Town's hangover from their cup exploits continued when they were dumped out of the Dorset Senior Cup by Wimborne Town.

Having lost to Sutton at The Avenue after their three game encounter with Luton Town, this was achance for the Magpies to get back to winning ways.

The holders held a 2-1 halftime advantage but were swept aside by their Evo-Stik League Southern Div 1 S&W opponents who gained revenge for last year's defeat in the final with two second half goals. Dorchester took the

lead when Jamie Symes was on hand to score after Wimborne keeper Jason Harvell could only parry Sam Mal-som's initial shot.

George Colson making his debut for the county town then had a chance to make an early impression, but volleyed over from close range.

The hosts equalised on 34 minutes when Dorchester failed to clear a cor-ner and the resulting cross was headed down to Matt Kemble all alone and looking offside six yards out. Jason Matthews managed to block his first toe-end effort, but the ball broke back to the striker who kicked it back over the line.

The lead was short lived as Colson

atoned for his first effort by heading Dorchester back in the lead on 39 minutes.

Wimborne levelled again ten min-utes after the break when Kemble was allowed space to head home Micky Hubbard's corner.

Wimborne ensured their semi-final place with 12 minutes left when Jamie Davidson took advantage of some more poor Dorchester play to drive through the centre of the defence be-fore beating Matthew's with a low shot from 15 yards.

The evening ended on an even more unpleasant note when Charlie Clough was sent off for a second yel-low card two minutes from time.

SAILING

Academy wins 2016 Vintage Yachting Games

THE Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA) has won a competitive bid to host the 2016 Vintage Yachting Games.

Pitted against international sporting locations across Germany, Romania and Sweden, the academy, home to the 2012 Olympic sailing events, demonstrated that the venue can comfortably host the predicted 650 competitors for the third edition of this event known as "the international post-Olympic yachting event for former Olympic classes".

Held every four years, the Vintage Yachting Games will head to Weymouth and Portland during the summer of 2016 when 300 boats will race as 10 to 14

different classes attracting traditional models and current crews.

Yachting was included in the Olympic Games as early as 1896 and has generated over 46 different classes through the years making for a real spectacle.

Rudy den Outer, Chairman, Vintage Yachting Games: "Since sailing is paramount for the event, The Vintage Yachting Classes (VYG) chose the WPNSA as the final due to excellent predicted sailing conditions during the summer and the experienced experts of the race committee.

"The logistics of the location can also easily cater for the small Europe dinghy as well as for the large and heavy 5.5 Metre keelboat.

"Weymouth and Portland are additionally excellent for lodging sailors of all ages and across different cost brackets.

"The VYG are very much looking forward to celebrating over 90 years of Olympic sailing experience at the same location of the latest Olympic sailing event".

The WPNSA accepted the VYG flag this year as part of the formal handover ceremony and the venue is now looking forward to the racing during 2016.

John Tweed, Chief Executive of the WPNSA, is pleased to have won the bid: "The academy is such a fitting venue to host the Vintage Yachting Games having previously been home to the 2012 Olympic racing.

"We are delighted that 2016 will bring some of the older Olympic class models back to life on the waters of Weymouth and Portland and of course provide a wonderful view back through time for past and current sailing enthusiasts".

The Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy is now continuing bids to host international



■ **BACK AGAIN:** The Europe dinghy will race again in fleets at Weymouth and Portland at the Vintage Yachting Games 2012.



■ **WHAT A YEAR!** From left; Olympic torchbearer Peter Fry, Helena Lucas, Assistant Harbour-master of Portland Port Alan Baker and standing John Tweed.

sporting events well into the future.

Volunteers inspired by Paralympic Gold medallist

TO conclude an unforgettable 2012, Weymouth and

Portland National Sailing Academy hosted a volunteers evening intended as a celebration of the hard work from volunteers throughout the year and a chance for more of the local community to engage in the academy's volunteer programmes.

WPNSA was the first Olympic and Paralympic venue since the '72 Games in Munich to be accessible to all countries prior to the event as well as claiming the first venue open for the 2012 Games.

This combined with the extensive range of events held during the Olympic year required vast numbers of volunteers.

The event began with a talk from Paralympic Gold Medallist, Helena Lucas who has also recently been appointed to the academy's board as a Director of WPNSA.

She commented: "It was great to share my success with all the volunteers. They work so hard at any event behind the scenes and I also hope it was inspiring for those wanting to start volunteering. These people really are the unsung heroes!"

Helena's talk was followed by the schedule of forthcoming events, presented by Chris Knight on how to get involved, with around 100 budding volunteers - all keen to show their support and get involved.

John Tweed, WPNSA Chief Executive said: "The event was a huge success, it was great to see so many new faces.

"We now have to work through the wealth of experience that came through the door to ensure they are utilised efficiently.

"The New year will be our busiest year yet in the number of events, even bigger than 2012!

"The schedule for 2013 has been published and can be found on the WPNSA website.

"Anybody interested in getting involved please contact Georgina on georgina.lee@wpnsa.org.uk"

WEYMOUTH LADIES GOLF

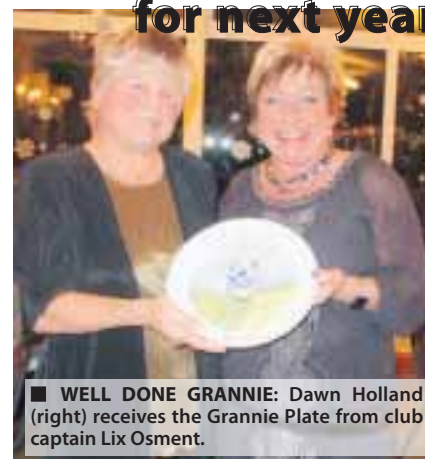
New members swell competition for next year



■ **WELCOME:** The seven new members who have joined the club recently.

WEYMOUTH Golf Club Ladies section celebrated a very successful year at their traditional Christmas party earlier this month and warmly welcomed seven new members who are looking forward to playing in the thriving section next year.

Dawn Holland was also presented with the coveted 'Grannie Plate' (designed and hand painted by Jennifer Kimberley) by Lady Captain Liz Osment.



■ **WELL DONE GRANNIE:** Dawn Holland (right) receives the Grannie Plate from club captain Liz Osment.

CRICKET

Hibbs half-century downs brave Portland

WEEK nine of the West Dorset Indoor League at the Osprey Centre Portland produced a classic as five-man Portland narrowly lost to Powerstock.

16s - Powerstock 120-5 beat Portland 108-3 by 12 runs

HAVING won the toss Powerstock elected to bat as Portland took to the field a player short.

Portland struck in the first over with Michael Colbrooke (2-0-9-2) producing a perfect yorker to bowl R Ginnes

for nine, but this brought Toby Hibbs (50) to the crease and he batted with class exploiting the gaps in the field with precision.

Portland stuck to the task and fought all the way, producing two fine run outs and some sublime fielding, but it was Hibbs who stole the show and with support from some intelligent stroke play from R White (16 no) as Powerstock closed on 120 - 5.

Portland attacked from the start in reply and raced to 37 after just 13

balls.

However the introduction of B Mullins to the attack paid off, as he clean bowled Colbrooke (9) first ball and his steady line and length frustrated the Portland batsman.

With skipper Tom Dalkins (33) having to retire after reaching 25, the game look set for a tight finish with Portland needing 31 off the last three overs.

White then bowled two class overs in which he only conceded eight runs, and despite a hard hitting 30

not out from Portland mom Tyler Penny, well supported by Liam Tewkesbury (9 no) Portland fell 12 runs short, aided by the accidental stop of a certain eight runs as a deflected misfield hit the umpire.

Portland coach Grant Neven had nothing but praise for all the players: "These youngsters produced cricket that advertised all that good in youth cricket.

Portland never gave up and produced an outstanding display despite being a player short and can

hold their heads high.

Ollie Thomas bowled well on his debut and his fielding was outstanding, but my hat comes off to Toby Hibbs for an outstanding innings."

Back to training after the festive season

MEMBERS of Portland Red Triangle Cricket Club are advised that winter training/nets begin on Sunday, January 13th.

Club coach Grant Neven said:

"Once the festive season is over it will be time to start our preparations for the new season.

All members are invited to attend winter training/nets which start on Sunday January 13th from 11am to 1pm at The Osprey Leisure Centre, Portland.

The club had a good season in 2012 with the Sunday 1sts being crowned champions and the Saturday 2nds finishing runners-up.

All players old and new will be made welcome (cost £3 per session).

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INSIDE: Local sport round-up

Plenty of local trainers looking for point-to-point success

THE Wessex Area point-to-point season kicks off on Sunday January 6th with the Larkhill Racing Club fixture.

Twenty-three meetings are scheduled in Wessex, culminating in the Weston & Banwell's evening fixture on Wednesday May 15th.

Somerset

JANE Western has four horses at Forde Abbey near Chard.

Jane has retained dual 2012 winner Benedictus, who will be aimed at hunter chases, and Last Minute Notice, who ran a promising race at Bratton Down in May.

Newcomers are Shootin The Breeze, a winner at Thurles in February 2012, and Gypsy Jack, the winner of two of his three points when trained by Richard Barber.

Shaakier and Stantway Surprise have retired, so Colin and Julie Bright of Combe St Nicholas near Chard will be represented by Irish

by Stuart Broom
stuart@pemedi.co.uk

bumper and hurdle race winner Some Slam, who was bought at Ascot in June out of Gary Moore's yard. Michael Legg will take the ride.

Henley near Crewkerne licensed trainer Bob Buckler will again race the consistent Different Trades, who was in the frame in each of his three 2011/12 outings.

Ryan Bliss, now also based at Henley, has six horses for the new season. Beady Eye, Michael Dare's Mishkaluch and Dunnick's Toffee return.

Newcomers are Jill Miller's Master Polo, an unraced gelding out of the high-class Miss O'Grady, an unraced mare for Fred Tucker and the interesting Rock Of Deauville, winner of two French flat races and

sixth in Cheltenham's 2011 Fred Winter Hurdle when trained by Paul Nicholls. Kate Nutt, who works for Ryan, is likely to ride Helen Barber's In The Circle in novice rider and ladies' races.

Chloe Newman has three horses at Woolminstone near Crewkerne. Chloe hopes to qualify Sobre Tresor for Exeter's Intermediate Final and also welcomes back Tikkeche, who was unplaced in three outings last season.

Robert and Janet Gibbs' Two Bob, a promising third in a 14-runner April 2011 Chepstow hurdle for the Philip Hobbs yard, is interesting. Chloe's brother-in-law Nick Taylor will saddle his dual 2011/12 winner Tres Bien.

Josh Newman will again partner

the family's runners.

Dorset

RICHARD Barber has his usual strong team of pointers at Seaborough near Beaminster, including recent Barbury Castle winner Glass'n A Half and Barneys Mate, who couldn't add to his prolific win tally at the same meeting.

Cheltenham Foxhunter runner-up Chapoturgeon will again go hunter chasing, while Ray Geddes' According To John and Mustangsallyrally will begin in point-to-points.

The stable has its customary intake of younger horses and the market at early meetings is sure to highlight ones to follow.

An interesting recruit is Woolcombe Folly, winner of nine races under Rules (all within an 11-race sequence) and an obvious candidate for 2 to 2½ mile hunter chases.

Continued on page 30 inside

And they're off!



■ THE point-to-point season gets underway on January 6th.
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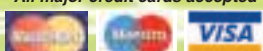
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